

Sub
C
cont

reinforcement material, whereby the reinforcement material is a nonwoven material with a weight in the range from 9 to 50 g/m².

2. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to claim 1, [whereby] wherein the nonwoven material is a wet nonwoven material, a dry nonwoven material, or a spunbonded nonwoven material.

3. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to claim 2, [whereby] wherein the nonwoven material is a cellulose nonwoven material.

a)
cont.

4. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to [one of the claims 1 to 3, whereby] claim 1, wherein the nonwoven material is printed.

5. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to [one of the claims to 4, whereby] claim 1, wherein the thickness of the cover layer is at least 90 µm.

6. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to [one of the claims 1 to 5, whereby] claim 1, wherein the coating compound for the cover layer is based on a material selected from the group of plastisols, organosols, dispersions, or lacquers.

7. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to claim 6, [whereby] wherein the plastisol is a PVC plastisol.

8. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to claim 6, [whereby] wherein the coating compound for the cover layer is a material containing polyreaction products, whereby the polyreaction products can be obtained by the reaction of at least one dicarboxylic acid or polycarboxylic acid or their derivatives or a mixture of these with at least one epoxidation product of a carboxylic acid ester or a mixture of these epoxidation products.

9. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to claim 8, [whereby] wherein the dicarboxylic acid is maleic acid, itaconic acid, fumaric acid, succinic acid, methyl succinic acid, malic acid, or furan dicarboxylic acid or a mixture containing at least two of these acids.

10. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to claim 8, [whereby] wherein the polycarboxylic acid is selected from citric acid or aconitic acid.

al
cont
11. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to [one of the claims 8 to 10, whereby] claim 8, wherein the derivative of the dicarboxylic acid or polycarboxylic acid is an anhydride or partial ester.

12. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to claim 11, [whereby] wherein the alcohol component of the partial ester is a polyol.

13. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to claim 12, [whereby] wherein the polyol is dipropylene glycol, a propane diol, a butane diol, a hexane diol, a hexane triol, glycerin, or pentaerythritol, or a mixture containing at least two of these polyols.

14. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to [one of the preceding claims 8 to 13, whereby] claim 8, wherein the mixture of at least one dicarboxylic acid or polycarboxylic acid or their derivatives is a mixture of a partial ester of maleic acid anhydride and dipropylene glycol with citric acid.

15. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to [one of the claims 8 to 14, whereby] claim 8, wherein the epoxidation product of a carboxylic acid ester contains more than one epoxy group per molecule.

16. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to [one of the claims 8 to 15, whereby] claim 8, wherein the epoxidation product of a carboxylic acid ester is epoxidized linseed oil, epoxidized soybean oil, epoxidized castor oil, epoxidized rapeseed oil or vernonia oil or a mixture containing at least two of these epoxidation products.

17. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to [one of the claims 8 to 16, whereby] claim 8, wherein the cover layer additionally contains one or more fillers.

18. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to [one of the claims 1 to 17, whereby] claim 1, wherein the cover layer (II) is transparent.

19. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to claim 18, [whereby] wherein the coating compound for the cover layer contains no more than 2 weight percent of filler.

20. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to [one of the claims 1 to 19, whereby] claim 1, wherein one or more flat nonwoven materials are additionally located under the cover layer.

21. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to claim 20, [whereby] wherein the nonwoven material located under the cover layer is a glass fiber nonwoven material.

22. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to [one of the preceding claims made of] claim 1, further comprising at least one carrier layer (I) and at least one previously defined cover layer (II), possibly one backing coating (III) located under the carrier layer (I) made of a chemically or mechanically foamed foam layer, and possibly a compact or base coating (IV), which is positioned between the carrier layer (I) and cover layer (II) and/or between the carrier layer (I) and backing coating (III), whereby the coating compounds for the layers (III) and (IV) are based on a material according to [one of the claims 6 to 17] claim 6.

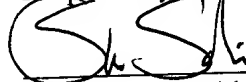
23. (Amended) [Flat] The flat material according to claim 22, [whereby] wherein a protective layer (VI) of unsaturated curable lacquer systems is located over the cover layer (II), whereby the polymers or copolymers for the lacquer systems are selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyurethanes, and mixtures of these.

25. (Amended) [Process] The process according to claim [24, whereby] 26, wherein one or more flat nonwoven materials are additionally located under the cover layer before the hardening of the cover layer.

Please add new claim 26 as follows:

~~26. (New) A process for providing a flexible multilayered flat material comprising:
substantially impregnating at least one substantially flat nonwoven material with a coating compound;
hardening the coating compound to form a hardened cover layer; and
applying the hardened cover layer to a carrier.~~

Respectfully submitted,



Steven L. Schmid
Registration No. 39,358
James F. Vaughan
Registration No. 31,889

WOMBLE CARLYLE SANDRIDGE & RICE
P. O. Box 725388
Atlanta, Georgia 31139-9388
(404) 962-7539 (Telephone)
(404) 870-8234 (Facsimile)

EXPRESS MAIL

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee," in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box PCT, Washington, D.C. 20231 on DEC.

Express Mail No. EL561348115 US

Candice P. Dupart
Signature